

## Message Text

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ORIGIN AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SIG-03 MMO-04 PA-02 ICAE-00  
SS-15 SP-02 INR-10 NEA-11 IO-14 EB-08 /092 R

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R 022248Z MAY 78  
FM SECSTATE WASHDC  
TO AMEMBASSY BANJUL  
USMISSION USNATO  
AMEMBASSY LONDON  
AMEMBASSY PARIS  
AMEMBASSY BONN  
AMEMBASSY MASERU  
AMEMBASSY MONROVIA  
AMEMBASSY PORT LOUIS  
AMEMBASSY MAPUTO  
AMEMBASSY VICTORIA  
AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO  
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA  
AMEMBASSY COTONOU  
AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE  
AMEMBASSY PRAIA  
AMEMBASSY BRAZZAVILLE  
AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA  
AMEMBASSY DJIBOUTI  
AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE  
AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN  
AMEMBASSY NAIROBI  
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM  
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM  
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

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E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: SOPN

SUBJECT: DEPARTMENT OF STATE PRESS BRIEFING, MAY 2, 1978

FOLLOWING IS AN UNOFFICIAL, UNCORRECTED EXCERPT FROM THE

DEPARTMENT OF STATE PRESS BRIEFING. IF NECESSARY OFFICIAL VERSION WILL FOLLOW.

A DISCUSSION OF THE OPENING OF THE PLO OFFICE IN WASHINGTON LED SEVERAL REPORTERS TO TRY TO DRAW PARALLELS WITH THE RHODESIAN INFORMATION OFFICE. THE RESPONSE TO YESTERDAY'S TAKEN QUESTION ON THE SUBJECT WAS READ:

QUOTE: THE ANSWER THAT WILL BE POSTED SHORTLY IS THAT WE ARE COMMITTED TO IMPLEMENTING UN SECURITY RESOLUTION 409, WHICH CALLS ON MEMBER STATES TO BLOCK THE FLOW OF FUNDS TO OFFICES OF A RHODESIAN REGIME OVER SEAS. THE PRECISE STEPS WHICH WE WILL TAKE TO IMPLEMENT THIS RESOLUTION ARE STILL UNDER STUDY.

Q. A RESOLUTION CONDEMNING UGANDAN DICTATOR IDI AMIN AND CALLING FOR A BAN ON US TRADE WITH AMIN'S REGIME WAS PASSED UNANIMOUSLY ON ON THE 26TH BY THREE HOUSE INTERNATIONAL

RELATIONS SUBCOMMITTIES. IT CALLS UPON THE PRESIDENT TO "SUPPORT AND WHERE POSSIBLE IMPLEMENT MEASURES SUCH AS AN EMBARGO ON TRADE WITH UGANDA WHICH WOULD EFFECTIVELY DISCOURAGE UNITED STATES SUPPORT OF THE GOVERNMENT OF UGANDA." DOES THE STATE DEPARTMENT SUPPORT THIS?

A. YOU KNOW WE HAVE HAD A POSITION ON THIS WHICH WE HAVE UNCLASSIFIED

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EXPRESSED TO CONGRESS BEFORE. I DON'T HAVE THE EXACT WORDING ON IT. I THINK OUR GENERAL FEELING HAS BEEN THAT SUCH AN ALL-INCLUSIVE BOYCOTT WOULD NOT BE EFFECTIVE TO THE ENDS AT WHICH IT WAS AIMED; AND THAT IT WOULD AFFECT PRIMARILY THOSE WHO ARE NOT THE REGIME'S LEADERS WHOSE POLICIES WE DO, OBVIOUSLY, OPPOSE -- BUT THE POOREST PEOPLE IN THAT COUNTRY. NOW INsofar AS THOSE SPECIFIC RESOLUTIONS ARE CONCERNED, I DON'T HAVE A PHRASEOLOGY FOR YOU. I WILL BE GLAD TO TAKE YOUR QUESTION AND GET IT.

Q. I AM A LITTLE PUZZLED HERE WHY WE ARE SO TENDER TOWARDS AMIN'S GOVERNMENT BUT NOT TO RHODESIA.

A. LOOK, IT IS NOT A QUESTION ONLY OF AMIN'S GOVERNMENT, IT IS A QUESTION OF THE GENERAL POLICY -- AS I HAVE SAID TO YOU BEFORE IN OTHER CONTEXTS THERE ARE SCORES OF REGIMES WHOSE POLICIES WE FIND ABHORRENT BUT WITH WHOM WE MAINTAIN A SET OF RELATIONSHIPS WHICH SEEM, FOR REASONS OF POLICY BOTH AFFECTING THE PEOPLE THEMSELVES AND THE ABILITY TO INFLUENCE EVENTS IN THOSE COUNTRIES. NOW ON THE RHODESIAN QUESTION, THIS AGAIN FALLS UNDER WHAT IS A VERY HIGHLY SPECIFIC CASE OF A REGIME

WHICH IS NOT RECOGNIZED AS A GOVERNMENT AND WHICH FALLS UNDER U.N. SANCTION WHICH WE AS A MEMBER STATE ARE PLEDGED TO UPHOLD.

Q. ON THAT SAME GENERAL SUBJECT, DO YOU HAVE ANYTHING ON THE HOUSE ACTION ON THE EX-IM BILL REGARDING SOUTH AFRICA?

A. WELL LET ME SAY FIRST, WE UNDERSTAND THE CONCERNS WHICH MOTIVATE THE CONGRESSMAN'S OFFICE TO INTRODUCE THE AMENDMENT WHICH HAS BEEN ACCEPTED BY THE NEAL SUB-COMMITTEE. WE WOULD, HOWEVER, PREFER TO MAINTAIN FLEXIBILITY IN THIS MATTER RATHER THAN HAVING A SPECIFIC RESTRICTION OR PROHIBITION SET INTO LAW AS A RESULT OF CONGRESSIONAL ACTION. THAT IS THE BASIC POSITION ON THAT.  
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Q. THERE HAVE BEEN REPORTS DURING THE PAST YEAR THAT WE HAVE BEEN -- THE PAGE AIRCRAFT PARTICULARLY AND I THINK THERE IS ANOTHER ONE, DOWN IN TEXAS THAT I CAN'T THINK OF -- HAVE BEEN TRAINING AMIN'S PILOTS, PARAMILITARY.

HAS THAT STOPPED?

A. YOU KNOW, I DO NOT KNOW.

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
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**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
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